



**PATENT APPLICATION**

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Roberts  
Ela L

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masaki KATO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 09/828,914

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Filed: April 10, 2001

Docket No.: 109187

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THEREOF AND  
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING MICRODEVICE

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated August 29, 2002, Applicants hereby  
elect Group I, claims 1-45. The election is made with traverse.

As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's  
grouping and characterization of the claims. Applicants submit that claims 1-27 are directed  
to an exposure apparatus, claims 28-45 are directed to a method of manufacturing a  
microdevice, and claims 46-66 are directed to a method of manufacturing an exposure  
apparatus.

Second, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is  
sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims  
would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is  
respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be  
made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and  
examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must

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examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants, and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 7, 2001 and October 19, 2001. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if, for some reason, copies of these Information Disclosure Statements are not present in the Patent Office file.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino  
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Date: September 18, 2002

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